

Good morning. My name is Denice Raymond. I am one of your constituents affected by MS. We live on a small dairy farm in Calhoun County. Before I realized I had MS, we had remodeled the farm house to put everything on one floor so that when we were old it would be easier. Little did I know "old" would happen sooner than expected. This cost us about \$60,000. After my diagnosis, we added a ramp due to my declining mobility. This cost us between \$1000 to \$2000. As my mobility continued to decline, we had our bathroom remodeled to have a walk-in shower and handicapped toilet. This cost us approximately \$5000.

I run a MS support group. There are individuals in the group who need home modifications to access their bathrooms and homes as their mobility declines.

As someone with a chronic, debilitating illness, I desperately desire to stay in my home with my family. If we hadn't made these changes to our home, I wouldn't be able to leave my home or shower. The rest of my family's homes are not handicapped accessible. This bill would allow them to make modifications to my other caregiver's homes.

When this bill passes, more people with mobility limitations will be able to stay out of assisted living or nursing homes which will ultimately save the state and tax payers money by reducing Medicare and Medicaid costs. Thank you for your time.